



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AUDIT

FY 2014 Audit. State Auditor Mary Mosiman recently released the audit report on the Iowa Department of Public Safety (DPS) for FY 2014. The Iowa DPS is charged with promoting the safety of all Iowans from hazards associated with crime, fire, and traffic through law enforcement.

FY 2014 Findings. Findings related to statutory requirements and other matters included:

- The DPS did not maintain a complete listing of all personal services contracts effective for FY 2014. The auditor recommends that personal services contracts should be properly approved prior to execution and a listing of all contracts entered into and outstanding should be maintained. The Department agrees and has established standards to accomplish this.
- There is a requirement in the Iowa Code that local fire officials file 90.0% of monthly fire reports with the State Fire Marshal Division within 10 business days following the end of each month for all fires causing an estimated damage of \$50 or more, or emergency responses by the fire service. However, less than 90.0% of fire reports are being submitted by local officials. The Department responded that web-based software purchased in 2010 has made it easier for fire departments to report their fires, but that while the state requires timely reporting there is no funding mechanism for this, nor does the DPS have authority to sanction fire chiefs that do not report in a timely manner.
- The auditor recommended that the DPS ensure that 90.0% of all receipts be deposited within 10 business days. During testing with the DPS, eight of 10 receipts for accident reports and nine of 10 receipts for electrical permits and licenses were not deposited in a timely manner. The Department responded that this testing occurred during a particularly heavy time in a three-year cycle when approximately 18,000 electrical license renewals were being processed and not all electronic payments were able to be accepted. Plans are in place to mitigate this issue and include a software update to allow electronic payment acceptance.

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